

Applic. No. 10/699,180

Amdt. dated April 30, 2005

Reply to Office action of March 7, 2005

Claim Amendments

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A sheet-processing machine, comprising:

a delivery;

a guide surface for sheets being processed; and

a sheet brake in said delivery, said sheet brake having at least one brake shoe movable over said guide surface parallel to a conveying direction of the sheets and cyclically in and counter to the sheet conveying direction.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The machine according to claim 1, wherein said brake shoe is movable transversely to [[a]] the conveying direction of the sheets.

Claims 3 and 4 (cancelled).

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Claim 5 (currently amended): The machine according to claim
[[4]] 1, wherein said at least one brake shoe is movable in a
retarded manner in the sheet conveying direction.

Claim 6 (previously presented): A sheet-processing machine,
comprising:

a delivery;

a guide surface for sheets being processed; and

a sheet brake in said delivery, said sheet brake having at
least one brake shoe movable over said guide surface, said at
least one brake shoe having a height of from less than to only
slightly greater than a spaced distance between said guide
surface and a respective sheet floatingly guided thereabove.

Claim 7 (previously presented): A sheet-processing machine,
comprising:

a delivery;

a guide surface for sheets being processed;

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a sheet brake in said delivery, said sheet brake having at least one brake shoe movable over said guide surface; and

at least one linear motor for driving said at least one brake shoe.

Claim 8 (original): The machine according to claim 7, wherein said linear motor has a stator part and a rotor part, said stator part being disposed beneath said guide surface, and said rotor part being disposed at a location selected from the group consisting of in and on said at least one brake shoe.

Claim 9 (previously presented): A sheet-processing machine, comprising:

a delivery;

a guide surface ~~is~~ formed of non-magnetizable material for sheets being processed; and

a sheet brake in said delivery, said sheet brake having at least one brake shoe movable over said guide surface.

Claims 10 and 11 (cancelled).

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Claim 12 (previously presented): A sheet-processing machine,
comprising:

a delivery;

a guide surface for sheets being processed;

a sheet brake in said delivery, said sheet brake having at
least one brake shoe movable over said guide surface; and

a guide for guiding said at least one brake shoe therein
parallel to the sheet conveying direction, said guide having a
support engaging in a U-shaped manner around an end of said
guide surface.

Claim 13 (original): The machine according to claim 12,
wherein said support of said guide is adjustable transversely
to said guide direction.

Claim 14 (original): The machine according to claim 12,
wherein said guide has a fork-shaped configuration, and said
brake shoe around which said guide engages lies laterally on
said guide surface.

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Claim 15 (original): The machine according to claim 14, wherein said at least one brake shoe lies on said guide surface, and an air-cushion bearing is disposed between said at least one brake shoe and said guide surface.

Claim 16 (original): The machine according to claim 15, further comprising nozzles provided in said guide surface for producing said air cushion.

Claim 17 (original): The machine according to claim 14, wherein said at least one brake shoe lies without contact on said guide surface, and a magnetic bearing is disposed between said at least one brake shoe and said guide surface.

Claim 18 (original): The machine according to claim 7, wherein said at least one linear motor is selected from the group consisting of electromagnetic and pneumatic linear motors.

Claim 19 (currently amended): A sheet-fed printing press, comprising:

a delivery;

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a guide surface for sheets being processed in the sheet-fed
printing press;

air nozzles provided in said guide surface; and

a sheet brake in said delivery, said sheet brake having at
least one brake shoe movable over said guide surface parallel
to a conveying direction of the sheets.

Claim 20 (currently amended): In a sheet-processing machine,
a delivery comprising:

a guide surface for sheets being processed; and

a sheet brake having at least one brake shoe movable over said
guide surface parallel to a conveying direction of the sheets,
and said brake shoe being connected to a suction air source.